

Hawaii State Department of Defense

pupukahi

pupukahi: "harmoniously united"

3949 Diamond Head Road, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495

Rare double-pinning ceremony, Hawaii Army National Guard

First woman of native Hawaiian ancestry to become a general in the Hawaii Army National Guard



Hawaii's Governor, David Ige, recently pinned the Hawaii Army National Guard's newest generals, Brigadier General Kenneth Hara, and Brigadier General Suzanne Vares-Lum in a rare double pinning ceremony. General Kenneth Hara, Hawaii's Deputy Adjutant General, comes from a family history of service in the Hawaii Army National Guard, with three generations having served. He is the second general in the family, his brother Major General Gary Hara is the U.S. Army Pacific Deputy Commanding General, Army National Guard.

General Vares-Lum is the first native Hawaiian female to reach the rank of general in the Army. She serves as the U.S. Pacific Command's Mobilization Assistant, Strategic Planning and Policy.



Employer Support of the Guard



Ten of 15 Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Patriot Awards were presented to Honolulu Police Officers and staff at the downtown HPD headquarters, Nov. 23, 2015. The Patriot Award reflects the efforts made to support Citizen Warriors through a wide-range of measures, including flexible schedules, time off prior to and after deployment, caring for families and granting leaves of absence, if needed.

The nominations were by three Hawaii Army National Guardsmen, three Hawaii Air National Guardsmen and two U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers. Representing the ESGR were Robert Borek, ESGR chair, Hawaii Committee and Ambassador P. Pasha Baker, Military Outreach director. Recipients were: retired Sgt Lloyd K. Dabaluz, Lt. Grant Y. Arakawa, Jodi Kam, Detective Ioane Keehu, Capt. John D. McCarthy, Maj. Larry R. Lawson, Maj. Craig T. Uehira, Assistant Chief Alan L. Bluemke, Sgt/ Raleigh R.L. Lopes, Sgt. Kevin S. Lopes, Maj. Kerry K. Inouye, retired Sgt. Benjamin Perez Jr., Sgt. Caesar T. Piros and Chief Louis M. Kealoha.

Youth Challenge Academy Class 43 Graduation



The Hawaii National Guard Youth Challenge Academy graduated its largest class to date on December 17, 2015 with 129 graduates. The mission of the National Guard Youth Challenge Academy Program is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16-18 year old high school dropouts, producing program graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens. The graduates completed a 22-week residential phase and have earned a high-school diploma. The residential phase is followed by a year-long mentoring relationship with a specially trained member from each youth's community.

2015 National Guard Birthday Commemoration



Maj. Gen. Gary Hara, Pvt. Agbannaog, Maj. Gen. Arthur J. Logan, Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Vern Miyagi, and Chief Master Sgt. William Parker cut the 379th National Guard birthday cake during the Hawaii National Guard Birthday Ball on December 11, 2015 held at the Coral Ballroom of the Hilton Hawaiian Village. The tradition of cutting the cake involves the youngest and oldest Airman/Soldier in attendance along with a selected retired Airman/Soldier, The Adjutant General and senior enlisted member of the National Guard. (US National Guard photo by Spc. William K. Walker/Released)



Celebrating the Season



Over 200 members from all divisions of the Hawaii Department of Defense gathered to celebrate the season December 16, 2015 at the DOD headquarters. Over 80 door prizes were handed out.

Home for the Holidays



Seven Hawaii Army National Guard Soldiers returned home after a six month-long deployment in support of the Southwest Border Mission. The Hilo-based Detachment 1, Company A, 3rd Battalion, 140th Aviation "Guardians", flew their UH-72 Lakota helicopter for task force Liberty based out of Harlingen, Texas. The unit's mission during operation Phalanx was to conduct aerial detection and monitoring and disrupt transnational criminal organizations and drug trafficking organizations in support of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The deployers were: Capt. Jayson Yang, Chief Warrant Rachael Yanos, Chief Warrant Aaron Beede, Chief Warrant Juan Coria, Chief Warrant Charles Eckart, Staff Sgt. Roland Gacayan Jr., and Spc. Takej Anjel.

